

**CITY OF LONG BEACH DEPARTMENT OF PARKS, RECREATION AND MARINE
LONG BEACH SENIOR CITIZEN ADVISORY COMMISSION**

MINUTES

Long Beach Senior Center
1150 E 4th Street
Long Beach, CA 90802

February 17, 2005
9:00 a.m.

I. CALL TO ORDER

Commissioner Higginson, Chair, called the meeting of the Senior Citizens Advisory Commission to order at 9:00 a.m. at California Recreation Community Center.

II. FLAG SALUTE – Commissioner Yolken, Vice-chair, led the flag salute

III. ROLL CALL / WELCOME OF GUESTS

The following Commissioners responded to roll call and confirmed a quorum.

Patricia Bergendahl, 6th District
Barbara J. Bolin, 9th District
Henry Brunner, 7th District
Rose Cabanban, 7th District
Florence Dodge, 3rd District
Rita Ellner, 2nd District
Teodoro Felix, 1st District

Rabbi Sidney Guthman, 3rd District
Mary Hernandez, 7th District
Nancy Higginson, 3rd District
Vivian Linderman, 8th District
Teresa Munoz, 2nd District
Lu Wall, 3rd District
Berry Yolken, 3rd District

Staff

Belem Solis, Superintendent
Del Ransom, Clerk II
Sonny Seng, Supervisor
Pam Hobson, Recreation Assistant
Eileen Ludlam, Recreation Assistant

Guests

IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – January 20, 2005

The January 20, 2005 Senior Citizen Advisory Commission Minutes were approved as corrected.

V. GUEST SPEAKER (S)

Andie Squires, Outreach Specialist, California Communications Access Foundation

Ms. Squires informed the Commission of free specialized telephones and devices that are provided to California residents who have existing residential phone service. This program is offered through the State of California.

Dan Rosenfeld, Local Government/Community Relations Representative, Long Beach Transit

Mr. Rosenfeld informed the Commission of the fare structure of the Long Beach Transit. Mr. Rosenfeld also invited the Commission to attend a public hearing to learn about and comment on the proposed fare adjustments.

VI. PUBLIC DISCUSSION

- A. The Senior Citizen Advisory Commission had no Public Discussion for the month of February.

VII. CORRESPONDENCE

- A. The Senior Citizen Advisory Commission received the resignation letter of Commissioner Betty Davenport.

VII. STANDING COMMITTEES

- A. Legislation – Commissioner Munoz

Commissioner Munoz updated the Commission on Senate Bill 921 – Health Care for all Californian. This bill would cover all Californians, control the health cost inflation and make health insurance affordable for all. Commissioner Munoz went on to say, “this bill would be introduced as the California Health Insurance Reliability Act (CHIRA).”

Commissioner Munoz informed the Commission that Volunteers of America has increased their fee from \$1.50 to \$2.00. Commissioner Munoz also distributed fact sheets on Social Security. This fact sheet had valuable questions and responses from senior constituents.

- B. Transportation – Commissioners Bolin and Linderman

Commissioner Linderman submitted her report on the ZAP bus services on 7th St. and Atlantic Avenue, which provide faster travel with limited stopping points. ZAP 96 travels from downtown LB to the VA Hospital and CSULB via 7th St. and ZAP 66 travels on Atlantic Ave. Cost is the same as regular service lines.

Commissioner Linderman also reported on the Public Hearing to consider fare increase, which will be held on Monday, February 28, in the LB City Council Chambers from noon to 2 pm and from 4:00 to 6:00 pm. If approved the fare increase, the first in more than 10 years, would take effect on July 1. There is no change to Senior, Disabled, Legally Blind and Wheelchair passenger as

one-time, cash riders. Interagency transfers are going up to \$.50 from \$.35 and LBT transfers are being discontinued in favor of a day pass which would cost senior or disabled adults, \$1.50 to ride all day. The senior/disabled monthly pass is rising from \$11 to \$21 and Dial-A-Lift is increasing by \$.50.

C. Health Care – Commissioner Yolken

Commissioner Yolken met with Ms. Theresa Marino, Manager, Bureau of Public Health and Dr. Darryl Sexton, City Health Officer, of the Long Beach Department of Health and Human Services. Both endorsed the idea of a "Health Column" for Senior Center Newsletters. That is, an article reviewed by both of them for inclusion in each of the various Senior Newsletters.

Commissioner Yolken met with Ms. Marino and discussed the ending of the Mobile Senior Nurse Program. This program had provided blood pressure, diabetic finger sticks, nutritional advice, and medical referrals to seniors at all senior park sites and several other sites where seniors meet. The loss of grant funding put an end to the program. It was carried for a short additional time to end coincident with the retirement of Mrs. Debbie Sutton, the RN who provided the services. The program's demise was brought to the Commission's attention at the January meeting by the Department of Parks, Recreation, and Marine.

Commissioner Yolken suggested that a reduced program might be possible and will pursue two strategies. The first, a formal letter from the Commission to Director Ronald Arias, Long Beach Department of Health and Human Services, delineating the need for such a program and the benefits that accrue to the seniors who avail themselves of the program.

The second strategy is to use volunteer Red Cross nurses. The same volunteers who participate in the Flu Clinics each year. To this end, Commissioner Yolken spoke with Ms. Theresa Brunella, Manager, Office of Volunteers and Community Outreach for the Greater Long Beach Chapter of the American Red Cross. Ms. Brunella thought it was an excellent volunteer opportunity for the RNs and Ms. Marino agreed it could be a good workable solution, a collaboration.

Commissioner Yolken motioned that the Commission send a letter to Ronald Arias, Director of Health and Human Services, requesting that a reduced Mobil Senior Nurse Program be instituted and a letter to Ms. Theresa Brunella, American Red Cross, Greater Long Beach Chapter, requesting follow through with Red Cross volunteer nurses to gauge interest in the Mobil Senior Nurse program. The Commission agreed unanimously.

D. Housing – Commissioners Felix, Wall and Cabanban

Commissioner Felix read an article from the Long Beach Business Journal entitled, "Prices Expected to Stabilize in more "Normal" Housing Market." This article told of how housing prices would stabilize and how there would be fewer transactions in the coming months.

E. Safety and Crime Prevention – Commissioners Bergendahl, Guthman and Brunner

Commissioner Bergendahl distributed the Crime Watch News newsletter and articles from Sunset Magazine entitled, “Rescue Driver” and from the Press Telegram entitled, “Phone Call.”

F. Quality of Life and Leisure – Commissioners Dodge and Hernandez

The Quality of Life and Leisure committee had nothing to report.

G. Community Relations – Commissioners Davenport and Ellner

Commissioner Ellner informed the Commission of reflective eyewear offered through the Braille Institute, the Family Health Portrait and aging & budget.

VIII. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

A. Senior Resource Directory

Commissioner Yolken informed the Commission that the mock up for the Senior Resource Directory has been completed and would hand the directory back over to Commissioner Wall.

B. Senior Parking Lot Update

Recreation Superintendent, Belem Solis informed the Commission that proper documents concerning the new parking lot at 4th and Cerritos have been forwarded to Chrissy Marshall, General Superintendent of Community Recreation Programs. This is a necessary step in the procedure of acquiring the use of the new parking lot.

C. Annual Report

Recreation Superintendent, Belem Solis informed the Commission that the Senior Citizen Advisory Commission’s Annual Report has been forwarded to the Director of Parks, Recreation and Marine.

D. Meeting Locations

The Commission approved the following revised meeting locations for the monthly Senior Citizen Advisory Commission: Silverado, March; El Dorado, May; Houghton, September and Cal Rec., November.

E. Commission Biographies

Commission Wall reminded the Commissioners to submit their auto-biographies.

F. Ambulance Services

Commission Wall will contact Vice-mayor Jackie Kell to check on the status of ambulance service fees.

X. NEW BUSINESS

A.

B.

XI. STAFF REPORTS

- A. Pamela Hobson, Recreation Assistant, reported on senior activities and programs at the Long Beach Senior Center. (Attachments)
- B. Eileen Ludlam, Recreation Assistant, reported on senior activities and programs at the Long Beach Senior Center. (Attachments)

XII. ANNOUNCEMENTS

A.

XIII. NEXT MEETING

The Executive Board meeting of the Senior Citizen Advisory Commission will be held on Thursday, March 3, 2005 at 10:00 a.m., at the Long Beach Senior Center. In attendance will be Commissioners Nancy Higginson, Berry Yolken, Lu Wall, and Rose Cabanban.

The General Commission meeting will be held at 9:00 a.m. on Thursday, March 17, 2005, at the Long Beach Center, 1150 E. 4th Street, Long Beach, CA 90802.

XIII. ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Higginson adjourned the meeting at 10:30 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Del Ransom, Clerk II
to Recreation Superintendent

c: Belem Solis, Recreation Superintendent of Parks Recreation and Marine